

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
BEFORE THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

**IN THE MATTER OF
HEARING DETERMINATION REQUEST
CLASS 3 "EXCAVATION OF A NEW SHAFT
AND ASSOCIATED CONNECTING DRIFTS"
PERMIT MODIFICATION TO THE WIPP
HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY PERMIT**

Docket No. HWB 21-02

FINAL ORDER

This matter comes before the Secretary of Environment following the appointment of a hearing officer to conduct an evidentiary public hearing pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 74-4-4.2 which commenced May 17, 2021, via the Zoom platform.

The Department of Energy and Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC, who own and operate the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant ("WIPP"), seek approval of a Class 3 Permit Modification Request ("PMR") to excavate and operate a new shaft and associated connecting drifts.

Located in Eddy County, New Mexico, WIPP is a facility authorized by Congress for the disposal of transuranic radioactive waste materials generated by atomic energy defense activities of the United States. As a result of a 2014 radiological underground release, portions of the WIPP facility and the existing surface-mounted ventilation exhaust systems were contaminated. Consequently, the WIPP facility ventilation system can accommodate only a small percentage of the original design airflow, and even with the addition of the New Filter Building, full scale mining is not possible. The addition of the new shaft and associated connecting drifts will upgrade the underground ventilation system and will restore


full-scale concurrent, unfiltered mining, maintenance, and continuously filtered waste emplacement operations as originally permitted.

The Hazardous Waste Bureau within the Resource Protection Division of the New Mexico Environment Department recommends approval of the PMR to enable the Permit to maintain the protection of human health and welfare and the environment. This recommendation is conditioned on Permittees' compliance with the applicable laws, rules and conditions of the Permit.

Having considered the administrative record, including all post-hearing submittals and the Hearing Officer's Report; and being otherwise fully advised regarding this matter; THE SECRETARY HEREBY ADOPTS THE HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDED FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

The Permit Modification Request for the excavation and operation of Shaft #5 and associated connecting drifts is hereby granted, and the Permit shall be issued by the Hazardous Waste Bureau in the form set forth in the Draft Permit, as shown in the Administrative Record.

 Digitally signed by
James Kenney
Date: 2021.10.27
14:24:30 -06'00'

JAMES C. KENNEY, Secretary of Environment

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REVIEW

Pursuant to Section 74-4-14, NMSA 1978, any person who participated in this permitting action and who is adversely affected by the action may file a petition for hearing by the Environmental Improvement Board, c/o Pamela Jones, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502. The petition shall be made in writing to the Board within thirty days from the date notice is given of this action.

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on October 27, 2021 a copy of the foregoing ***Final Order*** was emailed to the persons listed below:

A copy will be mailed first class upon request.

Christal Weatherly
Assistant General Counsel
New Mexico Environment Department
121 Tijeras Ave NE, Suite 1000
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
(505) 222-9524

Chris Vigil
Assistant General Counsel
New Mexico Environment Department
121 Tijeras Ave. NE, Ste. 1000
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Phone: (505) 383-2060
Fax: (505) 383-2064
Email: christopherj.vigil@state.nm.us

Megan McLean
Environmental Scientist/Specialist
New Mexico Environment Department
Hazardous Waste Bureau, WIPP Group
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Bldg 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
(505) 476-6047
megan.mclean@state.nm.us

Ricardo Maestas
Hazardous Waste Bureau
Ricardo.Maestas@state.nm.us

Michael L. Woodward
Hance Scarborough LLP
400 West 15th Street, Suite 950
Austin, TX 78620
mwoodward@hslawmail.com
(512) 479-8888

J.D. Head
Fritz, Byrne, Head & Gilstrap, PLLC
221 W. 6th St., Suite 960
Austin, TX 78701
jhead@fbhg.law
(512) 476-2020

Robert A. Stranahan, IV
Law Office of Robert A. Stranahan, IV
29 A Rancho Mañana
Santa Fe, NM 87506
(505) 577-0729
Rstranahan1@me.com

Dennis N. Cook
General Counsel
Leslie Brett Babb
Associate General Counsel
Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC
4021 National Parks Highway
Carlsbad, NM 88220
dennis.cook@wipp.ws
Brett.Babb@wipp.ws

George Anastas
11021 BridgePointe Ct, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111
(505) 7975452
GAnastas5@Comcast.Net

Scott Kovac
Nuclear Watch NM
903 W. Alameda #325
Santa Fe, NM 87501
scott@nukewatch.org

Don Hancock
Southwest Research and Information Center
PO Box 4524
Albuquerque, NM 87196-4524
(505) 262-1862
sricdon@earthlink.net

Deborah Reade
505-9869284
reade@nets.com

Joni Arends
Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
P. O. Box 31147
Santa Fe, NM 87594-1147
(505) 986-1973
jarends@nuclearactive.org

Steve Zappe
3 Escopeta Ct
Santa Fe, NM 87506
(505) 660-0353
steve_zappe@mac.com

James Angel
Myles Hall
Carlsbad Field Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, NM 88221
James.Angel@emcbc.doe.gov
Myles.Hall@cbfo.doe.gov

Dave McCoy
Attorney
dave@radfreenm.org

Lindsay Lovejoy
Attorney for SRIC
(505) 983-1800
lindsay@lindsaylovejoy.com

James Channell
jkchannell32@yahoo.com

Madai Corral

Madai Corral
Hearing Clerk
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502
Phone: (505) 490-5803
Email: Madai.corral@state.nm.us